

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BETTY REED
DISTRICT 59



Suite 204
2109 Palm Avenue
Tampa, FL 33605-3907



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Betty Reed
Florida House District 59

inside this issue:

Education Funding **P.2**

Healthcare Update **P.2**

Renewable Energy Initiatives **P.2**

Rep. Reed Sponsored Bills **P.3**

Florida's Budget **P.4**

Postmaster: Please deliver to addressee or current resident.

PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1169
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**THIS NEWSLETTER
CONTAINS IMPORTANT
INFORMATION ABOUT
YOUR 2010 FLORIDA STATE
LEGISLATURE, INCLUDING
NEW LAWS THAT MAY
AFFECT YOU!**

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Representing your interests in the Florida House of Representatives continues to be a welcome challenge and a rewarding privilege. I appreciate your vote of confidence and I enjoy serving House District 59.

As many of you know, while much of the country is recovering from the recession, Florida continues to face many economic hurdles. Therefore, during the 2010 legislative session, my colleagues and I focused much of our attention on economic development and job creation. In addition, we confronted a number of issues important to District 59, including Florida's budget, education, and healthcare of Floridians.

I am pleased to continue to serve on the Economic Development Policy Committee. I also serve on the Health Care Services Policy Committee, the

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee and the State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee.

I hope you find this legislative update to be a useful source of information on the 2010 session. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the issues, please call my office or send me an email. As always, if there is anything that I can assist you with, please contact my office (contact information is above).

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you.

Sincerely,

Betty Reed

State Representative Betty Reed
Florida House District 59

Florida's 2010-2011 Budget

The state budget approved on the final day of the 2010 session includes funding for many important local and statewide projects; but it fails, in my opinion, to meet the needs of Floridians. Therefore, I voted against the \$70.4 billion spending plan, and I have urged Governor Charlie Crist to veto at least portions of the financial package.

Granted, it was a huge challenge this year to write a budget. The Legislature began the session facing a \$3 billion shortfall. Thankfully, our state was able to rely upon another \$2.3 billion in federal stimulus money approved last year by President Obama and Congress along with another \$270 million in assistance that Congress is expected to approve. A new gaming compact with the Seminole Indian tribe also helps to balance the budget with a projected \$433 million in revenues for the state.



The budget also makes cuts to a highly successful program that helps new mothers considered at risk for abusing or neglecting their children. A \$10 million cut to the Healthy Families program amounts to more than a third of its budget. Roughly 3,500 of more than 8,700 families are expected to be dropped from the program.

Healthy Start coalitions, which serve at-risk pregnant women and infants, will see a cut of \$2.6 million. Additionally, contributions to county health departments are cut by \$10.5 million.



Representative Reed stands with the Homeless Coalition and homeless families (see HB 923 on page 3).



2010



DISTRICT OFFICE:

Suite 204
2109 Palm Avenue
Tampa, FL 33605-3907
Phone: (813) 241-8024

CAPITOL OFFICE:

1402 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-5432

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT:

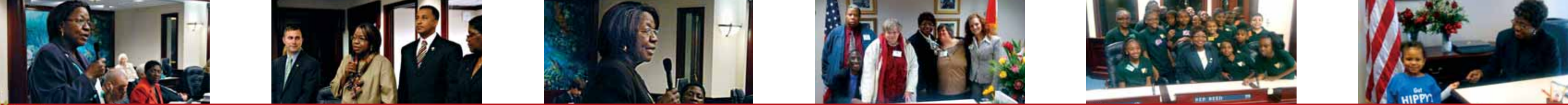
Michael Kinsey
michael.kinsey@myfloridahouse.gov

DISTRICT SECRETARY:

Wanda Beckham
wanda.beckham@myfloridahouse.gov

**COUNCILS/
COMMITTEES:**

- Economic Development Policy Committee (Democratic Ranking Member)
- Health Care Services Policy Committee
- Joint Legislative Auditing Committee
- State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee



Throughout the legislative session, I supported policies to promote the development of renewable energy resources and the jobs that will be created in that growing economic sector. And to encourage development of new markets for sustainable and renewable energy, I supported smart investments in important public works projects in communities throughout the state.

But given Florida's budgetary crisis, the Legislature had to be prudent and resourceful. That's why I backed a bipartisan effort to make clean energy technology accessible to homeowners and businesses. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, which is at the heart of HB 7179, provides local governments the flexibility to create programs to lend funds that homeowners or businesses can use to pay for improvements such as solar panels, high-efficiency water heaters, and storm hardening for their homes. The loans can be repaid over time depending on the amount and specific terms of the loan and can also be repaid as part of a participating homeowner's property tax bill.

Economic Development

I was proud this session to support new policies to promote the recovery of our state's economy. For me, job creation for Floridians was job number one.

It was important to me to meet the expectations of Florida's families and businesses who asked the Legislature to encourage new businesses, promote job creation and remove barriers to economic growth.

I supported legislation to keep Floridians working, prevent layoffs, to bring a measure of economic stability. For instance, we passed a bill on the first day of session to hold down a dramatic increase in unemployment tax rates for businesses for the next two years. These increases would have resulted in layoffs for Floridians.

"I supported legislation to keep Floridians working..."

The Legislature also passed a \$200 million jobs package (over 3 years) that is designed to make Florida more economically competitive and to encourage companies to invest in our state and hire Floridians.

Throughout the session, I supported various efforts that help Florida consumers, including a reinstatement of Florida's back-to-school sales tax holiday that benefits Florida's families. *The tax holiday provides a one-time, three-day sales tax holiday for clothing and other school supplies purchased from August 13-15, 2010.*

Healthcare Update

Reproductive rights and the federal health care reform law spark controversy.

Health care for Floridians was among my major priorities during the session. Though we were able to provide funding for many basic health services during a tough budget year, I am deeply disappointed by cuts to programs for vulnerable residents.

Much of this session's health care discussions, however, focused on

some members' desire to block certain requirements under the new federal health care reform law. To my dismay, a proposed constitutional amendment on this issue will appear on the November ballot.

The topic of women's reproductive rights surfaced in the final days of the session. I opposed a final

version of House Bill 1143, which included two controversial components: a statutory ban on health insurance "mandates" and a provision that requires a woman to undergo and view an ultrasound before having an abortion during the first trimester. I am hopeful that Governor Charlie Crist vetoes this legislation.

Focus on Education

Governor vetoed bill that would have adversely affected teacher benefits.



I believe that improving public education is the first step toward creating high-wage jobs and a quality workforce that the 21st Century economy demands. That's why I had hoped the Legislature would have made greater progress on education reforms and would have invested more in our schools.

I am particularly disappointed by the Legislature's decision to pass Senate Bill 6, a measure that drew widespread attention and criticism from across the state for how it would

have altered public school teacher benefits. Thankfully, Governor Crist vetoed this bill, which in my view, would have punished our school teachers and harmed education in our state.

This session, Governor Crist signed Senate Bill 4, a bipartisan measure that raises education standards and improves accountability and advances some of the reforms touted this year by some members of the Florida House Democratic Caucus. Senate Bill 4 phases out the high school Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in math, science and writing, and it introduces end-of-course exams in Algebra I, Geometry and Biology I.

4 Bills Sponsored by Representative Reed Reach House Floor.

Legislature sends 3 of Rep. Reed's bills to Governor Crist to become law.

- **HB55/SB206: District School Board Policies and Procedures.**
Provides legislative intent to recognize student academic achievement; encourages each district school board to adopt policies & procedures that provide for annual "Academic Scholarship Signing Day."
- **HB203/SB370: Community Corrections Assistance to Counties or County Consortiums.**
Adds rehabilitative community reentry programs to list of programs, services, & facilities that may be funded using community corrections funds.
- **HB479/SB962: Driver License Records.**

Revises authorized uses of license identification information maintained by DHSMV & released to DCFs; authorizes use for certain adult protective services investigations; provides conditions for such information to be used for verification of identity in determination of eligibility for public assistance & for certain fraud investigations.

Additional Legislation Sponsored by Rep. Reed:

- **HB923: Homelessness:**
Establishes homelessness prevention grant program;
- **HB185: Children of Incarcerated Parents:**
Provides guiding principles to be used by state agency personnel when dealing with children of incarcerated parents.
- **HB1373 - Prostate Cancer Awareness Program:**
Revises structure & objectives of Prostate Cancer Awareness Program within DOH.
- **HR9015 - Sigma-Zeta Day Program:**
Recognizes March 16, 2010, as "Sigma-Zeta Day" in Florida.
- **HR9017 - Sickle Cell Advocacy and Empowerment Day:**
Recognizes April 8, 2010, as "Sickle Cell Advocacy and Empowerment Day" in Florida.

CENSUS 2010: The Florida House Launches www.myfloridacensus.gov

Every ten years, Florida gets a chance to take a picture of your community. That snapshot determines ten years worth of investments in the future of your community. By visiting www.myfloridacensus.gov, you can help make sure that everyone in your community is represented in Florida's portrait.



By logging on to www.myfloridacensus.gov and telling us if you have been counted, you are speaking on behalf of your whole community. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data. Every additional Floridian counted is worth approximately \$1,500 per year in additional federal funding. Census data also determines congressional representation and guides local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, childcare and senior citizen centers, schools and more.

